

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2925

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TAGS: SENV, UR, US

SUBJ: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: PROJECT V-2.1: NORTHERN
ECOSYSTEMS: OUTCALT VISIT

REF: A) MOSCOW 10762 B) STATE 182318

1. SCIOFF MET AT HYDROMET AUGUST 4 WITH KAZAKOV AND KULAKOV OF HYDROMET, AND KHARITONOV OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, TO DELIVER LETTER FROM BROWN TO KAZAKOV (TRANSMITTED PER REFTEL B) AND TO URGE FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION OF OUTCALT VISIT TO YAKUTSK.

2. RESULT OF DISCUSSION WAS DEFINITE STATEMENT THAT NEITHER HYDROMET NOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE DR. OUTCALT AT THIS TIME. KULAKOV AND KHARITONOV ASSERTED THAT NEITHER ORGANIZATION HAD ISSUED FORMAL INVITATION TO DR. OUTCALT, AND EXPRESSED BOTH REGRET AND SURPRISE THAT "MISUNDERSTANDING" HAD ARISEN.

3. ACCORDING TO KHARITONOV, MELNIKOV LETTER TO DILLON, OF OCTOBER 10, 1974, ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE PROPOSAL FOR OUTCALT VISIT IN AUGUST BUT NOTED THAT DEFINITE PLANS FOR VISIT MUST BE PRECEDED BY
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AGREEMENT ON JOINT COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN THIS AREA

BETWEEN NAS AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. TO THIS END, MELNIKOV REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED TO DR. DILLON THAT NAS DIRECT A DEFINITE PROPOSAL ON SUCH AGREEMENT TO PRESIDUM OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

4. KULAKOV EXPLAINED INCLUSION IN DECEMBER 12, 1974 MEMORANDUM OF THIRD JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, UNDER PROJECT V-2.1, PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS, OF STATEMENT THAT "TWO U.S. SCIENTISTS WILL VISIT YAKUTSK IN AUGUST" AS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ONLY. HE ASSUMED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN

CONSTRUED AS INVITATION, SINCE FORMAL INVITATION RV ACADEMY INSTITUTE IN YAKUTSK COULD ONLY COME FROM ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. KAZAKOV ADDED THAT HYDROMET HAD NO ROLE WHATSOEVER IN OUTCALT VISIT, AS IT WAS MATTER BETWEEN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND NAS ALONE.

5. KHARITONOV STATED THAT MELNIKOV'S SUBSEQUENT EXPRESSIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE OUTCALT IN AUGUST WERE PREDICATED ON CONCLUSION OF NAS-ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AGREEMENT ON JOINT COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PRIOR TO THAT TIME. ACCORDING TO KHARITONOV, ACADEMY COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION TO OUTCALT UNTIL SUCH AGREEMENT CONCLUDED. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT NAS HAD NOT PRESENTED ACADEMY PRESIDUM WITH SUCH PROPOSAL, AS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED IN MELNIKOV LETTER OF OCTOBER 10, 1974, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT BE INCLUDED IN NAS LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION CURRENTLY UNDER PREPARATION.

6. SCIOFF STRESSED THAT EXPLANATIONS OF HYDROMET AND ACADEMY POSITIONS ON OUTCALT VISIT WERE GREATLY AT VARIANCE WITH US UNDERSTANDING OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN MELNIKOV-DILLON CORRESPONDENCE AND AT TIME OF THIRD JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. SCIOFF STRONGLY URGED RECONSIDERATION OF OUTCALT VISIT AUGUST 7-22, SINCE OUTCALT CLEARLY HAD BEEN LED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BELIEVE INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED AND DUE TO IMPOSSIBILITY OF RESCHEDULING VISIT FOR LATER THIS YEAR. KAZAKOV AND KULAKOV REITERATED THAT DECISION WAS NOT HYDROMET'S TO MAKE. KHARITONOV REITERATED THAT ACADEMY FULLY PREPARED TO ISSUE INVITATION BUT ONLY ONCE NAS-ACADEMY AGREEMENT CONCLUDED.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE TEXT OF MELNIKOV-

DILLON LETTER, NOR IS EMBASSY FAMILIAR WITH DISCUSSIONS WHICH LED TO INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO OUTCALT VISIT IN MEMORANDUM OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. EMBASSY THEREFORE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT "MISUNDERSTANDING" AROSE FROM TRANSFER OF SPONSORSHIP OF OUTCALT VISIT FROM HYDROMET TO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WITH NEITHER ORGANIZATION FOCUSING ON NECESSITY TO TAKE ACTION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT. LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MELNIKOV AND ACADEMY BUREAUCRACY IN MOSCOW WOULD SEEM TO HAVE ADDED TO CONFUSION AT SOVIET END. WHEREVER FAULT LIES, THERE APPEARS NO POSSIBILITY THAT ACADEMY WILL RECEIVE OUTCALT AT THIS TIME.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF MELNIKOV-DILLON LETTER OF OCT 10, 1974 AND DETAILS OF SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS RE OUTCALT VISIT. EVEN IF OUTCALT VISIT CANNOT BE ARRANGED WITHIN AUG 7-22 TIME LIMIT, CLARIFICATION OF "MISUNDERSTANDING" MAY ASSIST IN AVOIDING SIMILARLY REGRETTABLE "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" IN FUTURE.
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